

in this institution, and when the history of the Senate is written, I am confident that he will be fondly remembered as one of our great leaders.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, it was just about 10 years ago that Bob Dole announced his retirement from the Senate. It was 1996 and the Nation was in the midst of an intense campaign for the Presidency. Bob Dole had decided to resign his Senate seat for the good of his home State of Kansas, his party, and his country. He knew he would have to focus all his energies on his campaign for President if he were to be successful, so he left Washington to answer another call to serve his country and provide a choice to the people of Kansas and the rest of the United States when the election was held in November of that year.

We really shouldn't have been surprised. Answering the call to serve his country was nothing new for Bob Dole and he was proud to be able to do it. Over his life he had been many things, a legislator, a decorated war hero, and a leader both inside and outside of the Senate. Through the years, Bob Dole had always answered the call to serve his country when he was needed, and I have no doubt that he will continue to do so for many years to come.

It's no secret. Bob Dole has made it clear all his life. You want to know and understand him, you must first understand Russell, KS—the people who live there and the values and principles they hold dear. By coming to know the people of Russell, you understand the philosophy that Bob Dole has lived by his entire life. It's a philosophy of work, and of always giving your best to whatever you choose to do. It is a reflection of his father's view of the world—"stewers versus doers." Needless to say, you will always find Bob Dole in the "doers" group.

That is why the story of Bob Dole's life is thoroughly intertwined with the story of Russell, KS. For it was when he was growing up in Russell that Bob Dole committed himself to the service of God, Country and family. They came to become his core values as he learned at a young age that there are things worth fighting for and that is what drew him to his service in the military.

Those who have chronicled those difficult years in our history have called him part of our greatest generation. Without any regard for himself, Bob Dole left everything he called dear behind to face a challenge as great as any generation had faced before. Pearl Harbor had been attacked and the whole world had taken up arms in a battle against an unspeakable evil that had been unleashed upon the world. World War II had called him to action and Bob Dole was a young man serving in the U.S. Army. He would never be the same again in mind or body. Given the circumstances, I don't think anyone would have returned home from the battlefields of Europe and the South Pacific and not have been changed forever.

As he bravely fought in the mountains of Italy, he was wounded in action, but still he fought on. Then, he was wounded again, this time far more seriously. The odds were against him, but he somehow made it through those vital first days. He then began what would be a lengthy recovery. He had a long stay in the hospital and despite the efforts of those who attended him, he had lost the use of an arm.

When he was released from the hospital, he returned home, and that special place of Russell, KS, again reached out to him with open arms and provided him with the support he needed to continue to recover from the wounds he had suffered on the battlefield. Once again, the bonds that tied him to the people of Russell and Kansas became stronger. Those bonds helped Bob Dole to regain his strength and begin to plan for the future.

Soon he heard the call to serve again. With the support of the people of his home town, he left to work for the people of Kansas in the State house and then in the U.S. Congress. His leadership skills were quite apparent and he compiled quite a record in the Senate. He progressed through the ranks and served his party as minority and then majority leader. Every day on the Senate floor, he took a leadership role on a wide variety of issues that he knew were important to the people of his home State. Through the years he worked to ensure that our American values we protected and preserved in all the proceedings of Congress. It was a remarkable record of service that continued until that day, ten years ago, when he resigned to pursue the call to carry the Republican banner for President.

Although that final political campaign of his was not successful, Bob Dole will always be remembered for a lifetime of service to the United States. He has received many honors for his service to the United States, and for being a part of a noble cause that the greatest generation took up for which so many fought and died. He never forgot those with whom he served or the needs of our Nation's veterans. In fact, it was those ties from so many years ago that led him to join the effort to construct a memorial for World War II to recognize those with whom he served—especially those who never returned. His leadership in that effort resulted in the dedication of a beautiful memorial that will stand forever in the shadows of the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument on the Mall in our Nation's Capital.

Today, Bob Dole and his wife ELIZABETH continue to be a great team as she serves the people of North Carolina with the same care and attention that Bob Dole has always provided the people of Kansas.

Bob Dole has always said that his goal in life was to defend and serve the America he learned to love in Russell. I think the record shows that he succeeded in that effort and, in so doing,

left his mark throughout much of the world as he fought in Europe to free the oppressed, and, in the Senate, for the principles and values he had learned to cherish as a young boy growing up in Russell, KS.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to congratulate my friend, the distinguished Senator from West Virginia, who has achieved the distinction of being the longest serving Senator in the history of the Senate. Even though this is definitely a noteworthy achievement, what has set Senator BYRD apart from all others who have served as Senators is the dedication he has shown to the duties of his office, his respect for the traditions of the Senate, and his leadership of this body during his service in the Senate.

As President pro tempore, majority leader, and chairman of the Appropriations Committee, he has succeeded in protecting and enforcing the rules of the Senate, first written by Thomas Jefferson during his service as Vice President and the Presiding Officer of the Senate, and he used his leadership skills to successfully lead the Senate in changing the rules when a consensus for modernizing the rules permitted. His insights into the needs of his constituents and his devotion to their well-being have been admirable.

Perhaps his greatest contribution to our understanding of the Senate was his authorship of the "Addresses on the History of the United States Senate," the most comprehensive account of the role the Senate has played over the years.

I commend the Senator from West Virginia for his illustrious and record-breaking career in the Senate, and I wish for him many more years of service in this body.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I am sorry that I was not present on the floor on Monday when my colleagues paid tribute to my friend, ROBERT C. BYRD, but I would like to add my voice to the chorus speaking on his unsurpassed contributions to the U.S. Senate and to America.

I say without hesitation Senator BYRD is one of the most remarkable men I have ever had the privilege to work with. Although I have been here for 33 years, he is the only Member whom I have looked up to as my senior—my senior in every way.

When my days are finished in this Chamber, my children, my grandchildren, and my great-grandchildren will know that I served with the greatest servant of the U.S. Senate of all who have served.

Once someone said of another West Virginian, Stonewall Jackson, that "his character and will make him a stonewall and more of a stonewall than any man I've ever known."

I say the same of ROBERT BYRD. When he walks on the floor, Constitution in

his pocket, and he looks around, raises his voice, points his finger, he is our stonewall. He is the unshakeable rock of this institution. He is our foundation. He is the protector of this body.

I am absolutely certain that the Senator's service, knowledge, and contributions to the Senate will never be surpassed. This country gentleman has no peer. No one has given as much to this institution or loved it as much as the senior Senator from West Virginia.

The Senate is what it is because of ROBERT BYRD. And he is our wise senior, not because of the records but because he is a man of his conviction. He has told the truth on every issue that confronts our country. He is our rock of integrity.

When I was elected at age 29, and 6 weeks later, before I was sworn in, my wife and daughter were killed in a terrible car accident, Senator BYRD came to the funeral home. He waited in a long line to pay his respects. It was an act of kindness that I have never forgotten.

I know how bittersweet this honor is for him, as his lifemate, Erma, would have been 89 years old this week. We all admire the love and devotion the two of them had for each other, in health and in sickness. We know his first love was not in the Chamber; it was at home. We also know how proud she would be of him this week.

One of America's favorite West Virginians, who also set a lot of records in his day, is Mr. Clutch, Jerry West. He once said: "You can't get much done in life if you only work on the days when you feel good."

Senator BYRD has worked 17,331 days—days that have been good and bad. In all that time, he has made the most out of every one of them and gotten more done than anyone will ever know. It has been an honor serving with him for 12,209 of those days. I look forward to many more days and years together.

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I join my colleagues in paying tribute to one of our most distinguished Members, the Senior Senator from West Virginia, Mr. BYRD.

As he passes the milestone of becoming the Senate's longest serving Member, I would remind him of a statement by Yogi Berra when they asked him about one of his many records. He said, "I knew that one would stand until it was broken." Perhaps when medical science allows us to live to be 150 years old his record may be broken, but until then, I think he is safe.

Knowing the Senator's affection for the simple truth, I just want to make three points in recognizing this achievement which he embodies to an extraordinary degree.

The first is: Your life is what you make it.

Our former colleague, Senator Dave Durenberger told me the story of a Friday afternoon in the Senate in 1987 when he was standing in for Senator Dole for the procedural "wrap up" with

Senator BYRD. The Twins were in the World Series at the time and on the Record, Senator Durenberger asked Senator BYRD if he wanted to come to Minnesota to see one of the games.

Senator BYRD said he has not seen a professional baseball game, or football game, or Hollywood movie for more than a decade. But he said he had not been idle. He shared that he had read the Bible cover to cover many times, had read all the plays of Shakespeare, all the Lives of Plutarch and the entire Oxford Unabridged Dictionary.

Many of us wonder what we might accomplish without the many distractions of modern life. We should look to Senator BYRD for the answer.

The second point I would like to make is: People change.

When we look at ROBERT BYRD's upbringing and the person he has become, it underlies a basic truth which has been made clear by all the great hearts and minds of history. Life is not what happens to you: life is what you choose to do with what happens to you.

Change and growth is always possible in people's lives, if they have the courage to change and discipline to grow.

And my third point is: This Senate is unique.

For the sake of the 100 of us who temporarily occupy these seats, Senator BYRD has embodied the truth that the Senate is unique in human history and its value must be preserved.

The genius of our Founders was their understanding of the heights and depths of human endeavor and their ability to translate those thoughts into practical institutions which maximized the heights and minimized the depths.

They knew that the philosophy of democracy must honor both the principle of majority rule and the protection of minority rights. And so in article I of the Constitution they created a House to operate mostly by majority rule and a Senate mostly to protect minority rights. The balance they struck has given a dynamic quality to the Congress that serves our Nation well on every conceivable issue.

I have often gone up to Senator BYRD on this floor and told him that he has given me something I could not get from any other source: a proper appreciation for the living history of the Senate that leads to reverence for this institution.

ROBERT BYRD and his service in the Senate is a great American story. It tells anyone who will listen how a person from humble origin can rise to leadership and then strive his whole life to keep the way open for those who would come up behind him.

We know that great ideas are just a generation from extinction. I am grateful to have had the chance to see many of those great ideas embodied and standing on this floor in the person of Senator ROBERT C. BYRD.

My tribute to him will be to try to learn and live out the lessons he has lovingly and forcefully tried to teach us all in this Chamber.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, I rise today to offer a tribute to my colleague Senator ROBERT BYRD. Few men in our Nation's history have had such a large hand in shaping the U.S. Senate and the destiny of our country as ROBERT BYRD. No one in our country's history has served in the Senate longer or with more distinction.

Senator BYRD's Senate career truly is a remarkable American success story. Only in America could a young man from the coal fields of Appalachia use hard work, intelligence, and determination to one day become the longest serving Senator in U.S. history.

He has often been called the Senate's historian. I have often been amazed at Senator BYRD's prolific ability to weave the great authors and poets of the past into modern relevant lessons for today's society. Cicero, Shakespeare, Tacitus, Aquinas, Jefferson, and Washington are not simply names memorized from a textbook for Senator BYRD. They are living characters with indelible truths that we should all spend more time studying and give more time to in quiet reflection. Senator BYRD reminds us all of the importance of the august traditions of the Senate and why this is the world's greatest deliberative body.

You will never find Senator BYRD without his copy of the Constitution. I dare say there are few individuals here in this body with a greater love or commitment to those noble ideas our Founding Fathers fought and died defending.

But above all, I have been most impressed with his love and dedication to his family.

Senator BYRD and his beloved wife, Erma, were an amazing example for what we should all strive for in a loving marriage. For nearly 69 years ROBERT and Erma were together side by side, living and loving together. I would like to share some touching words that Senator BYRD gave in testament to his great wife—his greatest treasure:

She met with kings and shahs, princes and princesses, Governors and Senators, Presidents. She entertained the high and the mighty, the powerful and the wealthy of this Nation in a foreign land because it was important to her husband who served as the majority leader of this Senate and various other Senatorial offices. She did it all with an innate, inherent graciousness, incredible patience, and a soft, warm smile. She was a remarkable lady of great wisdom, but most of all, great gentleness, yet she could be tough when she saw injustice or unfairness.

I think America could use more devotion like that.

In closing, I congratulate Senator BYRD on his amazing accomplishments and to his 17,329 days in service to his country in the U.S. Senate. When the history books record his deeds and actions, he will truly be remembered in the pantheon of legends that have forever left their mark on our great nation.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, just a few days ago Senator ROBERT C. BYRD set a

very remarkable record. He is now the longest serving Senator in the history of the Senate. The Senate, the legislative body that means so much to him, now honors him for his achievement and for the remarkable record of service that he has given to the United States. I appreciate having the opportunity to be a part of our recognition of our colleague and his commitment to public service and the people of his home State of West Virginia.

For almost 48 years now, ROBERT C. BYRD has carried the title of U.S. Senator. I think it is fair to say that no one has done so with a greater awareness of what it means to be a Senator and of all the institution of the Senate represents. He is truly our institutional memory and he is the master of the Senate's rules and procedures. No one knows better than he the precedents and prerogatives of the Senate, and no one is a better protector, promoter and defender of them than he is.

It is not just for the length of his service that Senator BYRD is being honored, however. It isn't so much the years he has served but the service he has provided to the people of the United States and his State of West Virginia that has earned him the accolades he has received and will continue to receive from his colleagues and his constituents.

Our celebration of this moment and all he has achieved is softened by the loss of his beloved wife Erma, his greatest friend and supporter, his companion through life and almost 69 years of marriage, who passed away recently. I am sure she is looking down on us all, proud and thrilled to see Senator BYRD's continued efforts to address the issues of importance to his beloved friends of West Virginia and to note his recognition for being their champion for so many years.

During my service in the Senate I have appreciated working with Senator BYRD on a variety of issues, most recently the Miner Safety Act. We were both there at the President's side as he took up his pen and signed the bill into law. As he did, he noted Senator BYRD's presence because he knew the bill was the result of Senator BYRD's heartfelt concern for the miners of his State, for their safety, and the security of their families.

I have no doubt that if we were to look up the words "constituent service" in any book it would immediately refer us to Senator BYRD's work in the Senate. He has been an active and effective advocate for the people of West Virginia and he has worked tirelessly and diligently to address their needs in the Congress.

Looking back, Senator BYRD's life reads like a Hollywood movie script. He graduated first in his high school class and married his high school sweetheart. He then spent 12 years saving the money he needed to start college.

Through the years that followed, he held a variety of jobs that gave him an

understanding of the needs of the working people of his State. He also developed his talent for the fiddle, and soon became known for that as well. Before long he was a member of the State legislature and, not too long thereafter, he came to the Senate.

Here in the Senate, no one has shown a greater understanding of the history and meaning of the U.S. Constitution and the role it plays in shaping our values and our way of life as Americans. We both have a habit of carrying a copy in our pocket to remind us of our job here in the Senate and our responsibility as Senators to adhere to the provisions of the Constitution and all it says and requires us to do.

Whenever I think of Senator BYRD, the first thing that comes to mind is his incredible knowledge and understanding of world history and the American experience. He also has a profound and substantive mastery of the legacy of the written word. Whenever he takes to the floor to present his views on an issue he always has a ready reference to the precedents of the past, or the words of some great author who had written something appropriate to the moment.

Now, Senator BYRD, the great student of the history of our Nation and so much more, is himself a part of the great story of America and the traditions of the Senate. Every day he joins us here to deliberate on the issues before the Senate, he writes another chapter of his own life's story, a story that will be forever told and retold back in his home State, in the mountains and valleys of West Virginia, by the people who live there who will forever remember him and his legacy as their Senator—a legacy that will never be forgotten.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

1ST SERGEANT MICHAEL MATTHEWS

SERGEANT KENNETH KRAUS

STAFF SERGEANT JACOB LONG

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, it is my honor today to pay tribute to three courageous soldiers from the city of Roswell, GA, whose service to country and community merits grateful recognition.

1SG Michael Matthews has served 21 years in the U.S. Army and Army National Guard and is currently a member of Charlie Co., 108th Armored Regiment, 48th Brigade of the Georgia Army National Guard. On August 30, 2005, Sergeant Matthews was seriously wounded when two Iraqis detonated an Improvised Explosive Device next to his convoy 25 miles south of Bagdad. Sergeant Matthews continues to recover from his injuries, and following his recovery, the Roswell Police Department will welcome him back to his position on the force. Sergeant Matthews worked for 17 years as a uniform police officer and SWAT team member and, in 2005, was named the Police Officer of the Year.

SGT Kenneth Kraus served as a U.S. Marine on duty at the U.S. Embassy in Iran during February of 1979. As revolutionaries overpowered the Embassy, Sergeant Kraus successfully negotiated the release of several American civilians before he was wounded and taken hostage himself. Beaten and interrogated repeatedly, he was given a 20 minute trial and sentenced to die the next day. Sergeant Kraus was pulled from his cell in the hours after his sentence while a representative from the U.S. Embassy finally secured his release. He was flown to Germany for medical treatment and then home to the United States. The Roswell Police Department has been fortunate to have Sergeant Kraus work with them as a detective for over 11 years.

SSG Jacob Long serves as Company Master Gunner in Charlie Co., First Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment, 48th Brigade of the Georgia Army National Guard. On April 22, 2006, Staff Sergeant Long returned from a year-long deployment in Iraq during which Charlie Co. became responsible for sending Baby Noor, an Iraqi infant with spinal bifida, on a flight to obtain vital treatment in the United States and Baby Noor underwent successful surgery in Atlanta. In addition to his service abroad, Sergeant Jacob has worked with the Roswell Parks and Recreation Department for over 10 years.

These individuals continue to better their community and their Nation with selfless dedication to their careers in public service. I am proud to join the city of Roswell, the State of Georgia, and our Nation in honoring these brave men who have exemplified service to others on the local, national, and international level.

A BLOW TO GUN TRAFFICKING

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, a unique type of gun trafficking sting operation was completed recently. Teams of undercover law enforcement officials wearing hidden cameras traveled to Georgia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Virginia to make purchases which were designed to appear to be what are known as "straw purchases." Straw purchases are transactions that violate Federal law in which one individual submits to the required Federal background check for a gun that is clearly intended to be used by someone else. These purchasers play a crucial role in the illegal trafficking of guns by purchasing with the intention of reselling them to prohibited buyers.

In addition, a lawsuit was filed by the city of New York. The suit, filed in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York in Brooklyn, asks the court to enforce gun laws regarding such sales and require extra training for and supervision of dealers. The lawsuit also seeks punitive and compensatory damages. According to New York City's Web site, its police have